6/8/71

Dear Harold,

I had a very pleasant ride home with Dick yesterday, as we took a somewhat round-about route up to Western Pa. The scenery was magnificent. When we got to my house, I told Dick that I should have had you padlock the two cases of Viet clippings and send me the key a week after I handed in my paper, for there is no telling what I might do with all that material. I opened the larger case and went through the earliest cips, whimh begin circa 1/64 and include contemporaneous Tonkin accounts, etc. There is no chance of me going through any of it for my paper, for there is too much to be done with it all even before it can be studied.

What I plan to do when I'm finished the paper is this: I',, go through everything you have in those boxes and file them chronolgically under subject headings, e.g.--Gulf of Tonkin, Khahn Coup, Strategic Hamlets, Negotiations, etc. Otherwise, the mass precludes making heads or tales of what you have. But I'll keep a chrono index which will list every article by date and refer to the file it's in. The clippings cannot be examined in the envelpps as they are, anyway, and in that state they are being damged and bent. Filing them will preserve them, if nothing else.

About my visit there, is there really anything I can say? Do I have to tell you what an utter joy it is for me to be down there with you and Lil? And you know I couldn't possibly thank you enough for your hospitality--no, it's more than hospitality. But I appreciate every drop of it.

This time, I thought and thought about things I might get you and Lil, but nothing really came to mind. I think the best thing is for you to decide what you want most. So please accept the enclosure from myself and my family. My father wants you to know that we don't think of repaying you and Lil in terms of dollars and cents for what you've done for me. We really cannot "repay" you. But we all want you both to know how appreciative we are.

Looking at today's stories on the recent Supreme Court libel rulings, I wonder if your chances of winning a suit against the Times are diminished. I think you have a good case for proving that Wolfe knew what he was saying was false, and possibly that Kaplan had a"reckless disregard" for whether it was true or false, though the latter will be tougher to prove. However, the trend in the court's thinking leads me to believe that your chances of winning a pretty low.

I can't think of anything else right now. Please send my best to Lil and tell her to get better fast as she can. I'll try to call later this week to find out how she is.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit, thanks to both the surroundings and the company. Even with all the sneezing, I already miss the country.

Best,

Howard